

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : M. Stowell et al. Art Unit : 1711
Serial No.: 09/934,989 Examiner : Jeffrey C. Mullis
Filed : August 21, 2001
Title : SOL-GEL ENCAPSULATION OF LIPID VESICLES, LIPID
MEMBRANES AND PROTEINS

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Arlington, VA 22202

RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed February 4, 2002, the time for responding having been extended to June 4, 2002, by the accompanying petition and fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claim 7.

Please amend claims 1-6 and 8 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of preparing a lipid membrane, the method comprising:
- (a) providing a lipid membrane comprising a lipid monolayer, bilayer or multilayer;
 - (b) providing a plurality of silyl lipid molecules integrally-associated with the lipid membrane of (a), wherein each silyl lipid molecule comprises at least one silanol group; and

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202.

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